

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1.-14. (canceled).
15. (currently amended): A niobium powder for capacitors, containing niobium monoxide crystal in an amount of from 0.05 to 20% by mass or hexaniobium monoxide crystal in an amount of from 0.05 to 20% by mass, and obtained by granulating a niobium primary powder having an average particle size of 0.1 μm to tens of μm .
16. (original): The niobium powder for capacitors as claimed in claim 15, of which an oxidized amount is from 10,000 to 200,000 ppm by mass.
17. (canceled).
18. (original): The niobium powder for capacitors as claimed in claim 15, which contains a partially nitrated niobium powder.
19. (original): The niobium powder for capacitors as claimed in claim 16, which contains a partially nitrated niobium powder.
20. (canceled).
21. (original): The niobium powder for capacitors as claimed in claim 18, wherein the nitrated amount is 10 ~ 100,000 ppm by mass.
22. (original): The niobium powder for capacitors as claimed in claim 19, wherein the nitrated amount is 10 ~ 100,000 ppm by mass.

23. (canceled).

24. (canceled).

25. (canceled).

26. (canceled).

27. (canceled).

28. (canceled).

29. (canceled).

30. (canceled).

31. (previously presented): The niobium powder for capacitors as claimed in claim 15, containing Nb and niobium monoxide crystal in an amount of 0.05 to 20% by mass or hexaniobium monoxide crystal in an amount of from 0.05 to 20% by mass.

32. (previously presented): The niobium powder for capacitors as claimed in claim 15, containing Nb and hexaniobium monoxide crystal in an amount of from 0.05 to 20% by mass.

33. (previously presented): The niobium powder for capacitors as claimed in claim 15, containing niobium monoxide crystal in an amount of from 0.05 to 20 % by mass or hexaniobium monoxide crystal in an amount of from 0.05 to 20% by mass and balance Nb.